

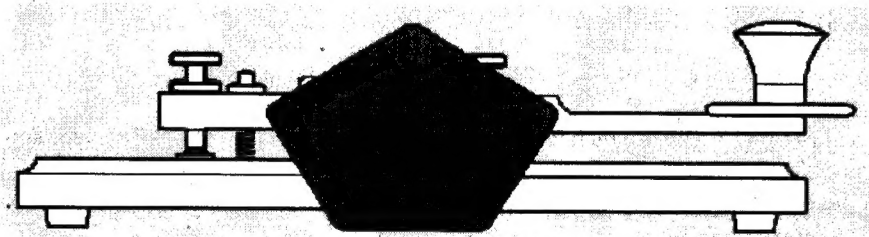
Issue 3, 2005

The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club

The active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society

“Accuracy Transcends Speed”



Our Goals:

Further the use of Morse code

Engender friendships among members

Encourage newcomers to use Morse code

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - PLEASE READ

HOW DO I JOIN? Membership is open to all people interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. An application form is not necessary to join, but it gives us a more complete picture of our membership. You can download a North American membership application on the FISTS web page: <http://www.fists.org>. An application can be mailed to you. Send a message Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com and he will email it to you, or mail an SASE to him at 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail. To join without an application, send your name, call, and mailing address with your membership fee to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS). To join using Paypal (www.paypal.com), send the funds to fists@tir.com. In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address if different from your Paypal address.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? Subscriptions are \$15.00/year; Under 17= FREE; College students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and send to FISTS, P O Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. *Do not send FISTS correspondence to Nancy WZ8C's callbook address.* Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. *It doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear.*

HOW DO I JOIN USING MY PAYPAL ACCOUNT? North American FISTS accepts PAYPAL (<http://www.paypal.com>). Address your PAYPAL payment to FISTS@TIR.COM To join via Paypal, type "New Membership" in the Paypal Comments Box, your name (if different from the name on your Paypal account), callsign, and mailing address.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW? A FISTS volunteer sends out renewal postcards, but if you renew prior to your renewal month it will save postage and printing costs as well as volunteer time. Your renewal date is on your Keynote mailing label in the form of year, month, date. For example 2005/4/4 would be a renewal date April 2005. The date of the month is meaningless, but the computer program requires a date, so generally the date of the month is the same as the month. 2005/12/12; 2006/5/5 etc,

HOW DO I RENEW? To renew, send \$15 to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440.

HOW DO I RENEW WITH PAYPAL? If you have a Paypal account, send the funds to fists@tir.com; put "RENEWAL" in the Comment Box, along with your callsign.

MAY I RENEW FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR AT A TIME? Yes! You may renew for as many years at a time as you like, but there is not a 'quantity' discount.

MY MEMBERSHIP LAPSED, CAN I GET MY OLD NUMBER BACK? Yes. Numbers are not reassigned. If you have had a number in the past, let Nancy know at the time of your renewal. so she can 'reactivate' it

WHERE DO I MAIL A DX APPLICATION OR RENEWAL? ZL,VK applications are go to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand. East Asia inquiries to Jean at join@fists-ea.org All other applications are to be mailed to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB? Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge. **To defray cost, please enclose \$1 when a club applies for an award and wants a membership certificate and \$3 for award certificates.**

HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE? Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or email to nancy@tir.com. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

HOW DO I GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST? Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page. The search engine feature on the web page is updated more frequently than the text list on the web page.

HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST? To receive periodic official Email updates, send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton. fistelst@comcast.net. If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E, irenenken@cs.com- 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible We offer: Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200. Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

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Hello FISTS!

I have a lot of news to cover.

Let's start with the news about Geo, G3ZQS, FISTS Founder. You may have heard that he is having health problems. I have spoken with him several times on the telephone in the last couple months. He sounds much improved and is very hopeful that he is on the road to feeling better. He has been unable to do any emailing or correspondence since December, so if you have written to him and not gotten an answer, please be patient.

He asks that if you are forwarding jokes or mass-email informational letters to him, please put those on hold. He is so backlogged with emails it just adds to the huge amount of email he has to deal with in his in-box. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers, but do not send him a 'get well' email. He cannot sit at the computer for any length of time. Although he appreciates our good

intentions, he wants to focus on getting the EU FISTS up and running.

We have offered our assistance in any way possible, but since we are an ocean apart, it is hard to do anything. The FISTS Down Unders have sent out an interim Keynote to the DX FISTS, and Chuck, the UK Buro Manager, is taking over the business end of things until Geo gets back to the helm.

On the NA front:

It has been brought to my attention from several people that members are finding it a bit unfair that they are subsidizing the costs of "Clubs with FISTS numbers" in the manner of certificates. So, starting June 1, 2005, if a Club wants a membership certificate, they need to send in \$1 and if they want an award certificate, they need to send in \$3 to help cover the costs. This makes it fair and keeps people from getting resentful that the clubs are getting a "free ride."

Chuck Adams, K7QO, has written a terrific code course and FISTS is distributing it free to interested people. It will make it's debut at the FISTS Booth in Dayton. All a person has to do to get a copy is register with their callsign/address or email address.

The program is perfect for code classes. It can be downloaded from Chuck's website, we'll have a link from the FISTS web page.

We have also set up an email reflector so registered users can post questions and comments and we can keep track of their progress. It's a major Know Code movement, so talk it up! If you'd like a copy of the disk, send a mailer and an SASE to PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

We have a limited amount of I (heart) CW - FISTS CW Club traveler mugs available. Mugs are \$5 & \$2 postage. Any proceeds from the mugs will go toward making the code CD's.

Now, on with your Keynote!
73 88 33 Nancy Kott WZ8C

QRP with K3WWP - Column # 68

Let's talk about QRP on 160M. This is a good time to do it; with the sunspots declining and the ionosphere becoming less absorptive of low frequency signals, 160M (and 80) will be in good shape over the next three or four years now. In addition to it being well known by the propagation experts, I can personally attest to the fact that the low bands are best during the sunspot minimum years. All I have to do is look at my statistics for the 160M contests I've entered over the past 10 years or so. A simple look at the number of QSO's here will suffice.

These are my yearly QSO's in the ARRL 160M contest: 1995-251, 1996-250, 1997-128, 1998-75, 1999-67, 2000-22, 2001-DNE, 2002-DNE, 2003-52, 2004-147. Conditions in 2001 and 2002 were so poor I didn't even bother entering. Almost a mirror image of conditions on the higher bands (10,12,15 meters), and inversely proportional to the sunspot number.

I think that establishes my point about when 160M is the best band for the minimal QRPer. Now for the ham with the QRO signal and phased verticals or wire beams, etc., I'm sure there is not that sharp contrast between maximum and minimum sunspot years, but it is a definite contrast for us though.

It takes a lot of room to put up a big 160M antenna that is necessary to do REALLY WELL on this band. Something like a good vertical with an extensive ground system would be ideal. However a full quarter wave vertical on 160M is a very tall beast indeed. Without a loading coil to shorten it, that comes to roughly 130 feet, something just not attainable at the vast majority of ham homes. Of course those living out in the country can probably erect such a monster without much trouble at all. Even with a loading coil to shorten the height, it is still impractical for the city dweller, especially the apartment dweller.

Once we get past the antenna itself, there's the ground system to consider. In order to get the good

low angle radiation needed for DX work on 160M, there must be a good ground system for the vertical to work against. A minimum of several dozen quarter-wave radials buried in, or lying on the ground is perhaps a rough minimum figure for very good performance. Not many hams can do that in the limited space they have, again with the exception of those living out in the country.

A dipole for 160M is also a rather large beast measuring in at about 260 feet in length for a full half-wave dipole. Not only must you consider the length, but the height as well. You must get it up in the air to get it to emit low angles of radiation needed for distance work.

Otherwise all your radiation will be at high angles. This means that your signal will not travel very far before it is refracted back to earth through the ionosphere. You'll have a good signal out to a few hundred miles from that first 'hop', but to travel further requires additional hops.

Each hop involves a refraction and a bounce off the earth that involves signal loss, so if you start with 5 watts, after multiple hops that 5 watts becomes much less.

A good compromise is the inverted L antenna with both a vertical and a horizontal portion that makes it neither so tall nor so long. The vertical portion does the main radiating so the angle of radiation is low.

It still requires a really good ground system though. But while you need an antenna like those described above to do REALLY WELL on 160M, what I said in my last column about simple antennas still holds true here. You can do OK on 160M with much less. Especially in contests where you will be working the 'professional' contest stations who are using the top-notch antennas and special receiving techniques. They can copy that tiny weak signal of yours where the normal ham station can not. With my random wire in the attic, which has been documented in previous columns and on my web site, I've

worked 41 states on 160M which I don't think is all that bad. I probably will make it to 48 states some day since I have worked CA and OR, but KL7 and KH6 may be out of reach. I only have 3 countries (W, VE, VP9) on 160 meters though. That's because of two reasons. My high angle of radiation, and the high noise levels on 160M down in the Caribbean area in which are located most of the closest DX countries I might be able to reach.

It's a fascinating topic, and I could go on, but space does not allow. By the time this reaches you, it will be well into 2005, and the good 160M winter season will be over. However it's not too early to plan for the 2005-2006 160M season which should be even better. Visit my web site at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>, check out the new NAQCC web site at <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>, email me at jsk3wwp@alltel.net, or write John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till next time 73, John Shannon.

From the KN0WCW Desk

2004 saw 37 operators serve as control operators for the FISTS USA Club Call for a total of 139 days. *They made 2754 contacts.* Here are the operators who took time out of their own operating time to put the KN0WCW call on the air: AB0SR, AF4LD, K0KP, K1RMF, K3NY, K4KXO, K4UK, K6DF, K6EY, K8TJ, K9JXW, KA3AKC, KB1HSA, KG4NNN, KG4WBH, KG9LZ, N2ED, N2KZ, N2LJD, N3PXF, N3ZOC, N5KY, N7EIE, NN9K, W0UFO, W2LJ, W4IO, W5TB, W6XU, W8FAX, W8III, W9UZ, WA7CS, WA9PWP, WB4MED, WB6SZZ AND WS0L. They worked contests, a Sprint, and some incredibly terrible band conditions to put the club call in many operator logs.

Some thoughts and ideas regarding KN0WCW:

1. If you are considering operating the club call, but do not have email, please drop me a post card with your name, call sign, FISTS #, phone number and best time to call. I will call you and we can set up operating dates for you.

2. If you are unsure about operating the club call, just sign up for one day to start. You do not have to be a high-speed operator to work the call. You are the control operator and you work at your speed. Your contacts will adjust to you.
3. If you are concerned about the cost of QSL'ing, don't be. One of the options provided to operators is QSL'ing for you. You just need to forward a copy of your legible log.
4. Do not think you have to operate the entire 24 hours or a major part of the day(s) you sign up to operate. Life happens. And, we all are very much aware of band conditions being extremely challenging. Get on the air when you can.
5. FISTS members do not need to SASE if you are QSL'ing to the KN0WCW QSL Manager. KN0WCW QSL's 100%, so you can save the envelope and postage. A cheaper way is to just QSL to the FISTS QSL Buro along with any other cards you are routing through them.
6. When QSL'ing a contact with KN0WCW, please make out the card to KN0WCW, not the operator and his call. Cards received made out to KN0WCW go in our albums. Those made out to the operator are forwarded to them.

The bands may be a bit challenging, but that is part of the fun.

"CW IS THE FUN MODE!"

73 DE Karl, KB1DSB: KN0WCW Trustee, KN0WCW Operator Scheduler, KN0WCW QSL MGR

2176 Drake Road, Bomoseen, VT 05732

email: kb1dsb@sover.net

(home) 802-468-5444

KN0WCW = FUN!

Quite a few hams have day dreamed about being on the receiving end of a DX pile up. It's a thrill as soon as a contact is finished to hear another station (or three) sending your call letters. I don't think I will have the good fortune to go to an exotic DX location but I did get a tiny taste of what it might be like during this past weekend.

My wife and I were making an annual 600 mile road trip to northern Virginia to a gathering of Border Terrier fanciers. I read about using the national club call, KN0WCW, on the FISTS web site (<http://www.fists.org>). I wrote and email to Karl (kb1dsb@sover.net) and received permission to use KN0WCW while we were on the road April 16 and 18. We spent April 17 enjoying about a hundred and fifty cute little brown dogs with an attitude.

I went prepared to use 40 and 20 meters. I have an FT-857D and a Ham Stick or Ham Tenna combo and run about 80 watts mobile. I have a small MFJ tuner to tweak the antennas. The stick antenna is on the roof of our van on a triple mag mount. I use a little Palm Mini paddle on a magnetic base for mobile CW. It is a great key, made with German craftsmanship, and a joy to use both on and off the road. See the key at <http://www.mtechnologies.com/palm/>, a good site for any CW lover.

April 16 found us on I-64 in eastern Kentucky. I was on 40 while my good wife drove the van. Traffic was light and the day was beautiful. Red bud, sourwood and dogwood trees were all in full bloom all at the same time. Forty meters however was the pits. The band was open but an S8 noise level over the eastern US (coupled with the FB weather) kept a lot of hams off 40 or outside and off the radio altogether.

I made a couple of contacts before we hit West Virginia. I spent a great 30 minutes talking QSK to George, K9WWT in Indiana about CW, Vibroplex keys, bicycle mobile and tubes and wires. He's 60 and I'm close to it so we both remembered tubes and wires!

After lunch near Beckley my wife pushed the West Virginia 70 mph speed limit just a wee little bit. The Ham Stick had enough wind resistance to pull the triple mag mount off the roof and lay the whole thing down horizontal on top of the van. I didn't try to fix anything. We were on a tight schedule to arrive in Warrenton, VA. I put the stick back in the van and called it quits for the day.

Sunday evening we headed for home and spent the evening in Beckley. I made a couple of contacts on 40 after 0000 hours (Monday morning in universal time). Conditions were good. On Monday morning (local time) leaving Beckley the S8 noise returned to 40. I made a few contacts and my wife pulled into the next rest stop so I could put the 20 Meter stick on the van roof. This time I was using a guy cord that ran from near the middle of the stick down to the luggage rack. The antennas stayed up.

The band was in good shape and once I got cooking I would finish a contact and immediately hear several stations calling me at one time. It was great! I worked 20 meters until we reached Lexington, KY. We had lunch and I took over the driving for a while. When we switched drivers again, 20 was still open but I guess a lot of FISTS were listening to W1AW code practice down on 14.047. Newington was S9+ but it was the only CW station I could hear. I pushed my Palm Mini back into it's self contained case, sat back and thought what a great time this had been.

Any FISTS member can request to use the national club call sign for up to seven days in one year. Check the KN0WCW calendar schedule on the club's web page and see if the date you have in mind is available. Email Karl and tell him you would like to operate the club station. If you have the skill to contact another FISTS member with your own call then you have the skill to use KN0WCW. You can operate from home, a vacation spot, or mobile like I did.

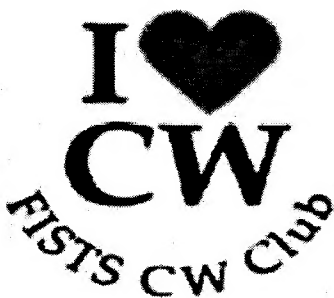
Here's some of my personal tips on operating. You are required to send your own call only at the be-

ginning and end of each transmission OR SERIES OF TRANSMISSIONS. That means you send KN0WCW/4 (or whatever call area you're in) when you first contact a station, and then after your last transmission, or every ten minutes, whichever is SHORTER. KN0WCW/4 is a "fistful" to send so don't get carpal tunnel sending it unnecessarily over and over during a contact.

Along those same lines, FCC regs require us to send the call of the other station ONLY at the beginning of a transmission or series of transmissions, and never again. This can really free up a contact. It becomes more like a contact on the local repeater. You never hear the FM guys giving both call letters at the beginning and end of every transmission on a repeater. When they ID every 10 minutes, they're following the same rules that apply to those of us who pound brass instead of squeeze the mike.

Most of us have rigs like my 857 that are capable of almost full QSK (break-in) keying but hardly anyone uses it. We keep making long transmissions with both sets of call letters at the beginning and end of each and every one. I think we do it that way because that's just the way we do it. Sending just BK at the end would do the same job and be a lot, lot easier. Using QSK is like losing 20 pounds of fat. You feel a lot better and want to get out and do even more.

I look forward to talking to you when you run KN0WCW. Whether you are a 10 wpm or 30 wpm FISTS member I'm sure you will have as much fun as I did. GL ES 73 Cap, W4AMW



3.5 MHz Antenna

Others might be interested in my 3.5 MHz antenna, which is both cheap and effective, based on design parameters from the March, 1990 QST article about top-loaded vertical antennas.

It is a #12c wire, supported on three 10-foot sections on f 4-inch diameter polyvinyl irrigation pipe (solid version; don't use the perforated type unless you like to hear banshees in the wind).

The top loading is provided by a cross of approximately 1 inch cross-section aluminum extrusion with homemade aluminum C-clamps bolted on the ends to hold short lengths of aluminum clothes line wire. These are used to fine tune the system. There is also a loading coil at the top, with an inductor/capacitor L section network at the base to match to the coax fee. The coax, and in my case 29 quarter wave radials, are buried in the lawn.

The pipe is held up by 3 guy wires made from hay bale binder plastic which is strong, non-metallic, and durable outdoors for a least several years (as long as it doesn't rub on tree branches!). Not to mention freely available on a horse farm, such as in our area. The whole she-bang is quite light and can be put up in literally seconds by two people, not counting the time to pound in the guy anchors and tying them off.

It has a rather high Q, the SWR stays below 2 for about 60 kHz or so; a taller version will be both more efficient (higher radiation resistance) and with lower Q/wider bandwidth.

It provides an excellent signal both locally and on DX. The main drawback is its reaction equally to signals from all directions and so it is susceptible to atmospheric QRN from the south.

Interestingly, mine also has a low SWR on the low end of the 7 MHz band and performs on the there very well, too.

73 Johnny B W2ESX

How I Learned Morse Code

by Bert W7IBC

My older brother used to experiment with building 1 and 2 tube radios. I used to share his headphones, listening to broadcast band DX (circa 1931) when I was about 10 years old. Yes, there was DX of a sort on the broadcast band in those days before the mass proliferation of broadcast stations. From my QTH in eastern Washington, we could tune in KDKA in Pittsburgh, KMOX in St. Louis and many others.

My brother salvaged parts from discarded radios to use in building his receivers. He helped me to learn the Morse code and also built up a code practice oscillator using a vintage 201-A tube. We found some discarded "bell" wire in trash cans of the local telephone company and strung a pair of wires between our upstairs bedrooms and we exchanged messages for code practices.

That planted the seed of the wonders of radio in me and I went from there to crystal sets. I bought my first commercial set from Allied Radio Co. in Chicago, for \$1.65. This eventually led me to shortwave listening on a 1-tube (#30) battery operated (of course), then to a used National SW-3.

When I was in high school, one of my friends in the Boy Scouts had an older brother who was a ham, W7FMK, who became my Elmer. I finally passed by Class C (now General) and became W7IBC.

I am now 83 years old and still pounding brass and hope to be doing the same thing for many years to come, providing that some "Hate CW mongers" Do not completely outlaw CW. Over the years 75% of my contacts have been on CW and I much prefer it to fone (SSB) especially in working DX under poor propagation conditions. Also, there is no language barrier involved.

Long Live CW!

CW is not dying

by Clarke Cooper K8BP #10695

There has been talk about the elimination of CW from the General License requirements. Many of you are saying, "Well, that will be the end of Ham Radio", others say "CW is dying anyway", and still others say, "CW is an inefficient and ancient mode of communications." For us old timers, including yours truly, who worked hard for the 5, 13, & 20 wpm requirements, this is a controversial subject.

But just think about how our technology is constantly changing. From the good old spark gap transmitter days came the tube type transmitters that weighed a ton. Transistor and the field-effect transistors entered the scene. Now with the intergraded and microchip technology, our rigs are smaller than a size of a shoe box. These small rigs are super stable, power efficient and loaded to the hilt with all the bells and whistles. With this new high tech development, new additional communications modes such as PSK-31, packet, Pactor, Amtor, ATV were developed and put to use on the Amateur bands.

FISTS CW Club .

Even with all these high tech modes and changes, I can assure you that CW is not dying. Just take the time and tune in on the lower portions of the HF bands any time of the day or night and you will find plenty of CW stations on the air. Having the fortunate opportunity to pound the brass key for over 43 years, and one who spends quite a bit of time on CW running QRP with my Elecraft K2, it is quite obvious to me that CW is increasing at a fairly good rate - even faster than the new modes I have just mentioned. With such organizations like the ARRL, FISTS, Adventure Radio Society, and QRP clubs and with the number of Elecraft kit transceivers being built throughout the world, CW is still one of the most popular, efficient and most reliable modes of communications in all types of atmospheric conditions. During the past several CW contests, I could not help but notice the newly issued call signs I was working. This alone only reassured my belief that CW is not dying.

Yes, we have seen many changes to our license requirements over the years and yes, further changes will be made in the future. There will be those who will complain about the change, and others who will accept them. In reality, whatever the FCC decides to do in the future, we must have a positive outlook and be thankful that we all have these wonderful privileges that enables all of us to

communicate and make new friends around this wonderful place we call Earth.

With all the future changes I am really convinced that those operating on the allocated SSB portion of the HF band will someday have the desire to explore CW. That is the magnet of Ham Radio and the willingness for all of us to improve ourselves as individuals.

For those of you who haven't had a try of CW yet, try it. Once one has mastered the Morse code, getting on the air has the same feeling as playing a musical instrument. CW has rhythm and has a musical tone to the ear. CW is truly Ham Radio. With very little work, one can learn Morse code and then take that step and try CW on the air. Don't be frightened to get your feet wet. Don't worry about your code speed. CW operators will adjust and welcome the new kid on the block. Just remember we were once a new kid on the block ourselves, and deep down inside, most of us really look forward to helping other Hams develop their skills. Yes, indeed, CW operators are a special breed that shows great compassion to others as we participate in this great hobby we all enjoy.

In closing I will guarantee you one thing. Once you start using CW you will be hooked forever and yes, CW will prevail. My Michigan truck license plate number speaks for itself:

CW 4 EVR.

Helpful QSO Hints

"A Basic CW Operating Manual", compiled by Dan Stegner in Issue 1 is a sorely needed refresher of CW operating standards. If I may, I would like to suggest several additional rules CW operators should follow.

Regarding prosigns and abbreviations: A prosign must be sent as a continuous string. By that I mean, for example, the prosign BK, meaning "break" or "break-in", is dahdiddiddidahdah, all run together. The BK prosign is used when breaking in on or interrupting a station's transmission. Provided the transmitting station is QSK, the receiving station can interrupt when trouble with reception arises. This technique should be used more often.

I believe it is generally accepted that BK, sent as dahdiddidit dahdidah, means "back to you", as when turning it over to another station to transmit. It should never be used because K and KN serve the purpose. Sending K or KN means, "go ahead and transmit, I'm listening". When coming back to a station who, let's say, has asked a question followed by K, don't begin your transmission with BK. If you do, you're beginning by saying, "back to you"! If you just must preface your transmission, send something like BT, which means "dash" (-), or say, "well," followed by the rest of your reply, or send "DE (your callsign)" followed by your reply.

Finally, to reemphasize spacing, when spaces between words are omitted, or when individual words are broken by inserting spaces, even an operator who perfectly forms individual characters becomes very difficult to read. When one becomes reasonably proficient with Morse code, words are heard, not merely individual letters.

IF YOU HAV ETRO UBLERE A DING T HIS, YOU G ET
THEID EA.

73 Don Smith, N6NAX.

..... : Congratulations to Merle W3OKN! :

• On June 19, 2004, Merle will have been continuously
• licensed for 70 years. He was W8OEM, W9IAM, W3KBL,
• and W3OKN.
•

The FISTS QSL Bureau Quiz

Please pick the correct answer to the following questions.

1. *The greatest number of FISTS members are located in the 4th call area. Which call area has the second most number of members ?* a. Fifth Call Area b. Sixth Call Area c. Seventh Call Area
d. Eighth Call Area e. Zero Call area .
2. *Many members have changed calls. As of the end of January 2005, how many of the 11,243 members have changed their call since becoming a member of FISTS ?* a. 458 b. 693 c. 763 d. 841 e. 982
3. *There are 81 members with "2" calls who do not live in either NY or NJ. Which callsign number has the second most members not living in their call area ?*
a. "1" calls – Not living in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
b. "3" calls – Not living in DC, DE, MD, PA
c. "6" calls – Not living in CA
d. "8" calls – Not living in MI, OH, WV
e. "9" calls – Not living in IL, IN, WI
4. *There are 778 FISTS members living in the state of California. Select the proper ranking of the next five states in number of members residing therein.*
a. OH – MI – TX – NY – FL b. MI – TX – FL – OH – PA
c. NY – OH – MI – TX – FL d. TX – OH – MI – NY – FL e. FL – TX – OH – NY – MI
5. *There are 30 FISTS members living in Alaska. Which 4 states have fewer members?*
a. DE, ND, WY, RI b. NE, RI, ND, WY c. RI, HI, WY, ND
d. VT, HI, ND, WY e. HI, SD, ND, WY
6. *There are 262 FISTS members in Canada. There are 113 members living in ON. There is only 1 member each in PEI, NWT, NU, YT. Rank the next four Provinces by number of FISTS members.*
a. BC, QC, AB, NS c. BC, QC, SK, AB
b. BC, AB, QC, NB d. BC, QC, NS, AB e. BC, AB, NS, QC
7. *How many SASE's have we received since we began handling the FISTS QSL Bureau in November of 1997 ?* a. 32,865 b. 26,098 c. 42,537 d. 59,034 e. 37,965
8. *If you check the Index Page on the QSL Bureau Web Site, this is an easy question. How many cards had we handled from November 1997 through December 2004 ?*
a. 289,569 b. 314,488 c. 243,965 d. 406,564 e. 212,865
9. *We send QSL cards to "DX" members of FISTS and receive cards from them. How many cards have we sent to DX members since November 1997 ?*
a. 31,684 b. 27,298 c. 39,643 d. 21,836 e. 35,912
10. *Through January 2005 there have been 11,243 FISTS numbers issued since the International Morse Preservation Society was created in 1987. How many members have joined via the North American Chapter?*
a. 6,542 b. 4,509 c. 8,389 d. 7,278 e. 5,936

*These numbers are representative of activity as of January 2005

Radio Officer Remembers

Maritime CW Denis N2JJF

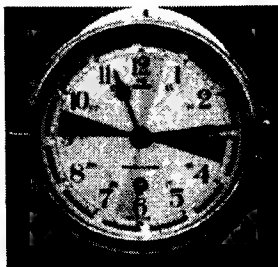
Most people will be surprised to hear that the main mode of communication onboard ships up to the late 1980's was CW. I served on various flag vessels including passenger, tramp, reefer (refrigerated) bulk carriers and oil tankers from 1970-1984.

CW was the chief means of communicating with head office. It was much easier to copy CW thru QRM when signal levels were weak, which they were most of the time. A typical watch started at 0800 to 1200 hrs. From 1200 -1600 any two hours. From 1600-2000 any 2 continuous hours.

Arriving and departing port meant more traffic and longer hours. My first duty was to copy traffic lists from various world wide stations through which I might be expecting traffic. If I was on a list, I would call that station directly on a calling frequency which was determined by propagation conditions. The Maritime Mobile Bands were 2Mhz, 4Mhz, 6Mhz, 8Mhz, 12Mhz, 16Mhz, 22Mhz, and 25Mhz.

One of the largest and busiest stations in the world at that time was Portishead radio in England. On many occasions when I called for my traffic I was given turn #40 or more (QRY40). It was a long wait till they got to me and many times band conditions would change and I would lose contact and have to start over again! But what else was there to do onboard? Read lots of books and listen to music!

The main frequency that we monitored at all times was 500 KHz. This was the distress and calling frequency on medium wave. It was used for intermediate distance communication. During the day range was 200-300 miles but at night it would come alive with stations thousands of miles away. At 15 -18 minutes and 45 - 48 minutes past every hour all transmissions on CW world wide ceased in order to listen for vessels in distress. This was known as the Silence Period.



A typical radio room clock is shown here. The lightly shaded sections at 00-03 and 30-33 minutes past the hour were silence periods on 2182 KHz on SSB

Some typical equipment we used were: A main 1500 Watts transceiver; a reserve 100 W transceiver; Main & emergency Receivers; Auto alarm; Life-boat Transceiver powered by hand cranking.

When a ship was in distress, the first thing sent was not SOS but 12 four-second dashes each separated by 1 second. This activated the Auto Alarm onboard. When it detected 4 four-second dashes it rang alarm bells on the bridge and the Radio Officer's (R/O) cabin. This was mandated as a direct result of the Titanic sinking when the R/Os of nearby ships were off watch and thus never heard the Titanic's distress call. After completing the 12 four-second dashes, the SOS itself was sent. Fortunately I was never involved in any real SOS but I did act as a control and relay station for a ship that was sinking in heavy seas in the South China Sea. A tug boat arrived after 36 hours and towed it safely to Hong Kong.

The R/O's job had to have been the best onboard. When in port no radio transmission was allowed. In some countries the radio room was locked and sealed by customs. I once joined a vessel and served 18 months without a break, sailed physically around the world 3 times and when I paid off I owed the company money!

Around 1983 I saw the writing on the wall for the R/O. The GMDS (Global Maritime Distress System) was going to be introduced. Satellite communication would take the place of the R/O. This was the beginning of the end for CW on ships. CW did manage to hang on officially till 1998 when US coast guard closed down its stations.

Today the last bastion of CW is Ham Radio. I did not have a ham license when I was at sea and I regret that now. Imagine some of the pile ups I could have had from some of the way out places I visited. Not surprisingly, CW is my mode of communication now. I guess it makes me a little nostalgic. I know advances in communication technology makes life much easier for present day crew members. They can contact their families directly and immediately by phone and email. CW has saved thousands of lives since the Titanic and even though people say it was too slow it always got through and got the job done. Denis N2JJF

CW – Why I Love It *by John Chauvin, K5IZO*

This is not another “Code – No Code” article. This article simply cites, as an absolute, why the author loves CW for its own merit. There are clear advantages to CW as there are clear advantages to SSB and other modes. Similar discussions can be had for each. Hopefully the readers will see the many benefits of the art of CW and add it into their repertoire.

1. Bandwidth (BW) is very narrow: Thus it uses a lot less spectrum. It is possible to have many more QSOs per KHz than other modes. Yes, the information rate is probably comparable (data rate / bandwidth) to other modes if one wants to consider rag chewing but for general quick QSOs, there is no comparison. No guilt of conspicuous consumption.
2. For only modest operator CW speeds, it can be much faster in contests than SSB.
3. Signals can be pulled out of the noise much easier than voice modes. I'm always amazed how many times I listen to SSB and hear about the current “bad” conditions and then I go make a bunch of CW (even DX) QSOs.
4. For DX, there is no comparison.
5. For marginal, and especially varying propagation conditions (fading), a CW QSO will always be held longer than SSB.
6. It is different. CB/SSB/FM are utilizations of our regular communications (voice).
7. There are special CW groups such as slow and fast HF nets as well as the international organization known as FISTS that has over 10,000 members.
8. Transmitted signals are much less likely to have RFI. Signals are purer and have fewer harmonics.
9. Transmitted signals with bad modulation/bad tone are much easier to decipher than those with similar problems on SSB.
10. CW is easier to tune in. No fiddling is required to get the pitch just right so you can understand it.
11. Tuning can be varied to get best “sound” of the desired signal vs. QRM.
12. Notching can eliminate some of the CW QRM. This doesn't work on wider bandwidth modes.
13. CW is foreign language friendly. Two people with different native tongues can have a modest “conversation.”
14. CW is historical.
15. CW is a learned skill and not simply an extension of current skills.
16. Electronics requirements for CW are simpler, actually making homebrews feasible.
17. QRP rigs for CW are much more achievable than for other modes.
18. CW equipment is less expensive than other modes.
19. A stealth station is easier to accomplish than other modes.
20. If BPL takes hold, CW operators will be much less affected.
21. When listening for CW, one hears less noise. With filters, one only hears noise from a BW of 250 or 500 Hz. For SSB (for example), with filters it is 2-3 KHz.
22. When listening for CW, one hears less QRM. With the filters, one only hears those in their BW (250-500 Hz), not the 2-3 KHz.
23. Less power is required. Not everyone has a KW.
24. For normal emergency communications, certainly CW is not preferred. For remote emergencies, CW signals get through and batteries can last longer due to the option to run much lower power.
25. Some CW receivers, not just transmitters, use less power.
26. Using CW helps keep our (hams in general) modes options open (use or lose).
27. I can operate in my own home “stealth” to family members. It is possible, and is practiced, to have CW in progress (using earphones) in your bedroom with your spouse asleep.
28. I can be very relaxed while operating. I have a high back chair and if conditions are bad or bands are slow, I almost fall asleep while “searching and pouncing” or calling CQ (I usually don't write down the entire QSO but rather just a few key words). I only have to pipe up to enter the QSO information in the computer log.
29. It takes less personal energy. I don't have to use my voice.
30. I don't get hoarse during extended contests.
31. Because voice is not used, this makes amateur radio possible for many who have raspy voices, infirm voices, colds or other forms of illness or simply prefer to relax to go on the air. People with injuries or handicaps have devised clever ways to use CW.
32. One friend cited that he got a thrill from being able to complete a QSO when he dropped his microphone and it no longer worked.
33. In some instances, one can call a SSB DX station using CW when he is outside the legal US SSB range and ask him to listen on another frequency that you may transmit on.
34. It is “cool.” Some view it as an accomplishment. Youngsters view it as a secret language.
35. Some get a thrill from communicating with others in a “language” that is unknown to most people.
36. Most importantly however, it is FUN!

Give CW an honest try! You might love it too.

ESS—Fifty Years of Fun!

New York State has been really fortunate in having a number of CW traffic nets in existence since the National Traffic System was established in 1948. As a training ground for NYS, the daily three-session QRQ (higher-speed) net, a slower-speed gathering to introduce new CW traffic-handlers to traffic formatting and net procedure in an efficient, non-intimidating way was more necessity than luxury. The New York Slow Speed Net (NYSS) was the first such net in the early 1950s (I'm deeply indebted to ESS founder K2DYB for his reminiscences; Nat—a young squirt at the time—is a good friend and continues his trafficking from central NY). After NYSS withered on the vine, as nets sometimes do, a bunch of high schoolers hit on the idea of an after-school net and the Northeast Traffic Net (NETN) was born. NETN shortly evolved into ESS, whose first session took place August 17, 1955. Net operation was sporadic the first few years, as ESS rode the roller-coaster of late-50s wild propagation (great for DX, terrible for traffic), but by the early 60s the net was well-established at its current time and frequency—6 pm daily on 3590 kHz—and with a truly amazing, several-8-1/2-by-14-inch-mimeographed-pages, monthly newsletter. Heady days indeed—dozens of stations and scads of traffic! As the years passed, though, and interest in traffic-handling lowered to a simmer from a boil, ESS found itself rudderless in the mid-70s and that could have been the end of the story right there. Fortunately, it wasn't. Pete (W2WSS) filled a managerial void at the end of 1977, and during his 23-year tenure left an indelible impression on the net until he joined Silent Keys on December 23, 2000. I discovered ESS in late 1987, thanks to the *ARRL Net Directory*; Pete and I both lived in NYC at the time and saw eye-to-eye on a lot of things. When he passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness I *really* needed to keep the net going; it continues to this day, virtually as he left it, as the Pete Gellert Memorial Net. Net speed is 10 wpm and, while we're still an independent traffic net covering the entire Northeast, we do a lot of Elmering in general. Some of the friendliest folks I know check into ESS—hope you can join us!

--very 73 de Anne WI2G

So Long as the World is Big by Jeff Davis, KE9V

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There wasn't much point in staying in bed. He first awoke at 1:30am then again an hour later. By 4am he had been awake for over an hour just staring into the darkness.

Sleep didn't come easily for Bob since the recent passing of his wife. They had been married for sixty-one years and having been high school sweethearts, they had known each other even longer still. Together they won a World War, built a home, and raised a family. With the exception of those War years they had never spent a night apart. In the months since her passing he found the daylight hours tolerable so long as he busied himself. But he dreaded the long nights alone in the big farmhouse.

On this early winter, pre-dawn morning, Bob got up and began his day as usual, carrying a cup of coffee into the "shack". Amateur radio had been a lifelong hobby for Bob, although in the final months of Stella's struggle with cancer he had abandoned his radio room and on the air friends. They knew of his predicament and they understood his silence.

Shortly after losing Stella, Bob returned to the air. It gave him something to do and the comfort of his radio friends helped to fill a cavernous void.

While he had a shelf full of modern equipment, this day, he flipped the switch on the old Hallicrafters SX-28 Super Skyrider receiver. Stella had given it to him for Christmas in 1944 while he was home on leave. It brought back memories of the many nights when

she would join him in the radio room and knit or work a crossword puzzle while they laughed at the Great Gildersleeve and Jack Benny radio broadcasts. He fondly recalled how Stella would snuggle closer to him when the creaking door sound from the Inner Sanctum program played eerily in the large speaker. "Now those were the good old days", Bob thought to himself.

By the time the tubes in the old radio had warmed up Bob had returned with another cup of coffee. The receiver covered from the bottom end of the broadcast band to 44mhz in six-bands. This morning, Bob began listening on the TopBand; as its admirers affectionately call 160 meters.

There wasn't a signal to be heard in the CW portion of the band. Tuning further up there were several stations in QSO. Stopping at the strongest one Bob recognized the voice of Rudy up in Cleveland. Rudy always has a good signal and if he spends more than 15 minutes in a conversation it always turns to the North Pole. You see Rudy believes that the earth's poles are due to swap polarity "anytime time now" with disastrous results. Of course Rudy has been saying this since about 1959 when he first read about it in a Popular Science magazine.

Smiling, he continued tuning up the band until he heard a weak signal at about 1.900kc. It was a South American station in QSO with a fellow in southern California. Bob wondered if these two could be worse insomniacs than him. He listened as the farmer in Brazil was in near anguish describing the torren-

tial rains that had all but ruined his crop. The amateur operator in California told his friend that he would be "praying for him and his family".

It was difficult to listen to such compassion and not be moved. Bob scribbled a quick note in the front of his well-worn Bible to remind him to also pray for the fellow amateur in a far off land. Such is the fraternity known as "ham radio".

By this time the sun had not quite pierced the darkness. Bob switched the radio to the 20-meter band. Here there were an abundance of CW signals, and most of them were DX. He copied both ends of a Morse code conversation between a Japanese operator and a young lady in New Zealand. They were discussing the high price of petrol and taxes in their respective countries. "You don't hear many YL's who can run 35wpm—and with such an enjoyable to copy rhythm", he thought.

Tuning higher he came across first one then several phone stations. He stopped at a particular signal from an operator on a ship in the South Pacific: "I tell you Eduardo, the view is unbelievable right now. The sun set about an hour ago and I can't see a single light on the water. I'd say there isn't another ship, or human for at least 100 miles, perhaps more. The sea is calm and glass like. At times I can detect the iridescent flash of some undersea creatures that glow. Overhead, the stars are shining so brightly that they reflect on the water. It looks like another wonderful night to be out on the open sea".

Listening to the artful de-
Issue 3 2005

scription, Bob fondly recalled the many nights he spent in the Pacific. The Navy was inching toward Tokyo and he could tell you of many fierce battles along the way. But there were also many quiet nights when the sea was calm and the sky majestic. There was no way to count the times that he'd stare up at the moon or the big dipper and wonder if his Stella, thousands of miles away back home, was looking up too.

Somehow that made the distance between them seem a little smaller.

At that moment it dawned on him, amateur radio was a lot like that. Here he was, listening to a fellow on a ship at sea thousands of miles away. For a few magic moments, radio had made the world seem a little smaller. In that very moment, in some way that he could never adequately explain, he felt closer to Stella too.

As the first rays of sunlight streaked across the sky, Bob rubbed his chin and smiled. He had made it through another night and was one day closer to joining his beloved wife. Before shutting down the radio and heading into town for breakfast he wrote a single line in the front cover of his logbook, perhaps so he wouldn't forget this night:

"So long as the world is big, ham radio will be around to make it smaller".

**WILL CONTEST
FOR FOOD
.....KH6BZF**

A Dashing Man of Vision

Researched by Tom Wedding
KG4HGP

This young man was born in the late 1700's in Charleston MA. He had a great passion for painting and sculpture. He was a real artist at heart with a keen mind for inventions.

He went to Yale University and studied with Benjamin Silliman, a great man of science, and natural philosophy with Benjamin Day. These men also lectured on the new science of electricity. He learned a great deal from them about batteries and constructed several of his own. But, his real passion was art.

He graduated from Yale in 1810 and the following year, he finally got permission from his parents and the funding he needed to study art abroad. This was a great undertaking, back then you couldn't just hop a plane and go abroad! He studied in London with two American-born masters: Washington Allston and Benjamin West. He studied at the Royal Academy of Arts. His first and only sculpture was a figure of the dying Hercules, which won great acclaim and a gold medal in the Adelphi Society of Arts Competition. After spending all the funds that his parents could spare, he had to return back to the States.

Back in the States, he became quite a portrait painter for many

people of fashionable society, one of whom was James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States. He also did a portrait of the inventor Eli Whitney and a famous French soldier and statesman, Marquis de Lafayette. Not a bad clientele! Even with this work, he had a hard time earning a living as an artist. He and thirty other artists founded the National Academy of Design in 1826. He also served as its first president, from 1826-1845. During that time he traveled back to Europe and perfected his artistic technique. In 1832 he was appointed professor of painting and sculpture at the University of the City of New York (now NYU). All this led to an involvement in quite a few other interests, on being politics. In 1836 he ran for mayor of New York City, but lost. What ambition! He even tried to get commissioned to paint historical murals for the rotunda of the capital in Washington D.C. He ran for Congress in 1854 but lost again.

Painting and art were still his greatest loves but it just was not paying the bills and allowing him to pursue his passion as a serious artist. He had to fall back on his ability as an inventor. He invented a pump for the fire engine and a marble cutting machine to reproduce statues mechanically, but his most successful effort was the telegraph. With help from colleagues and a grant from Congress, on May 24, 1844, the famous message "What hath God wrought" was tapped out over the wire.

In the 1860's he also became Vice-President of the new Metropolitan Museum of Art and a trustee of Vassar College. He was honored by the telegraph industry with a statue in Central Park in New York City.

My hat is off to the dashing man of vision: Samuel Findley Breese Morse 1791-1872.

Green Eggs and Code

With apologies to the late Theodor Seuss Geisel ("Dr. Seuss") and to Sam, N8IY...written by Bob WA8YCD

I am Sam! Sam I am!

I am a Ham! I'm Sam-the-Ham!

That Sam-the-Ham!

That Sam-the-Ham!

I don't like code, Sam-the-Ham!

I don't like code. I'm a No-Code-Ham.

You don't like code, No-Code-Ham?

I don't like code, Sam-the-Ham!

I don't like code, I don't like it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit

Would you like code here or there?

I would not like code here or there

I would not like code anywhere

I don't like code. I don't like it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit!

Would you like code in a house?

Would you like code with a mouse?

I would not like it in a house!

I would not like it with a mouse!

I don't like code. I don't like it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit!

Would you like code in a box?

Would you like code with a fox?

Not in a box!

Not with a fox!

Not in a house!

Not with a mouse!

I won't do code here or there.

I won't do code anywhere!

I won't do code, I don't like it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit!

Would you? Could you?

In a car?

Hear it! Send it!

Dit and dah!

I would not, could not, in a car!

You may like it. You will see.

You may like it in a tree!

I would not, could not in a tree!

Not in a car! You let me be!

I would not like code in a box!

I could not do code with a fox!

I would not like code in a house!

I could not do code with a mouse!

I will not do code here or there.

I will not do code anywhere!

I do not like code, Sam-the-Ham.

I do not like code, I won't do it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit!

A train! A train!

A train! A train!

Could you, would you, on a train?

Not on a train! Not in a tree!

Not in a car! Sam! Let me be!

I would not like code in a box!

I could not do code with a fox!

I would not like code in a house!

I could not do code with a mouse!

I won't do code here or there.

I won't do code anywhere!

I do not like code Sam-the-Ham.

I do not like code, I won't do it.

I won't do code, not dah nor dit!

Say!

In the dark?

Here in the dark!

Could you, would you, in the dark?

I would not, could not in the dark!

Would you, could you, in the rain?

I would not, could not, in the rain.

Not in the dark. Not on a train.

Not in a car. Not in a tree.

I do not like code, Sam, you see.

Not in a house. Not in a box.

Not with a mouse. Not with a fox.

I will not do code here or there.

I will not do code anywhere.

No dit, no dah, no dah, no dit.

I will not do code, I don't like it

You don't like code, No-Code-Ham?

I don't like code, Sam-the-Ham!

Could you, would you with a goat?

I would not, could not, with a goat!

Could you, would you on a boat?

I would not, could not, on a boat!

I would not, could not, with a goat!

I will not do code in the rain.

I will not do code on a train.

Not in the dark! Not in a tree!

Not in a car! You let me be!

I do not like code in a box.

I do not like code with a fox.

I will not do code in a house.

I will not do code with a mouse.

I will not do code here or there.

I will not do code anywhere.

I do not like it, not dah nor dit.

I will not do code, I don't like it

I do not like code, I'm a No-Code-

Ham.

I do not like code, Sam-The-Ham.

You do not like code,

So you say.

Try it!

Try it!

And you may!

Try code and you may, I say!

Sam! If you will let me be,

I will try code. You will see.

Say!

I like code!

Dah and dit!

I do, Sam!

I do like it!

And I would do code on a boat.

And I would do code with a goat.

And I could do code in the rain.

And I could do code on a train.

And in a car, and in a tree!

Code is good, so good, you see!

So I will do code in a box.

And I will do code with a fox.

And I will do code in a house.

And I will do code with a mouse.

And I will do code here and there.

Say! I can do code ANYWHERE!

I do so like code,

I'm a KNOW-CODE HAM!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Sam-The-Ham!

FISTS Awards by Dennis K6DF

Looks like the number of awards issued has fallen off a little with the coming of better weather. I don't know how you feel about your weather, but I am glad to see the rain stop here in California! Of course, the bands have not been all that great over these past few weeks either. So I'm sure that kept the issued awards to a minimum as well. The QSB has been terrible, couple that with lots of static and, . . . well, . . . I must admit the bad weather and bands have allowed me time to do one of my other hobbies such as crawling under the house doing plumbing. Gee, . . . that's a fun hobby, wonder why others don't take to it like I do? (Yes, you're right, . . . I'm NUTZ!) hi hi Well, that's it for this time.

A rather short awards column, maybe next time there will be more awards and better band condx to report on! Remember to use the awards e-mail address, (Fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs **The FISTS number for KN0WCW can only be counted ONCE!** Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them: <http://www.fists.org/awards.html> If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail me with your questions. Keep banging the brass C U on the bands.

AWARDS ISSUED - Feb 28, 2005 to Apr 18, 2005

Basic Century (CC)

AA8SN
AB0SR
AC0BQ
AI4JW
K4OSO
K4QWF
KA0E
KG0IT
KG4VMB
KG6CLJ
N0VA
VK4JAZ
W1XH
W7JI
W9RSR
WA2SI
WD4AXJ
WI4A

Silver Century

KB3HBD
M0DRK
VE1CB
W9BRE
WB9DLC

Gold Century

KG4NNN
WB2TQC

Diamond Century

KK4DW
WD5DWC

Platinum Award

KA8MPT
KB1LBP
KE5CXX
W9BRE
WB9DLC

Platinum 250 Award

K9UQN WB2TQC

Worked All States (FISTS)

K0TC
K8TEZ
KA4JQZ

1 X QRP
KD5MJJ
W9FRC

2 X QRP
K4KIX
W9FRC

Rag Chewers' Award (RCC)

G4AQZ
W9SJW
WB8CAC

Club Call Achievement

KB1HSA

Special European KeyNote Notice

Hello to all United Kingdom and European FISTS, from all in FISTS "Down Under" (Australia and New Zealand). This Special U.K. Key Note comes to you from our FISTS "Down Under" Editor. Let me explain: As most of you will be aware, your Secretary and Editor of Keynote, Geo Longden, G3ZQS – FISTS # 0001 has been very unwell (since last Christmas), requiring several visits to hospital for check ups and treatment. He apologises to you all, but just hasn't felt up to writing the monthly newsletter "KEY NOTE" or handling the work associated with your FISTS Subscriptions and new members etc.

Normally we receive the U.K. KEY NOTE by e-mail and it is printed and added to our newsletter for the benefit of our members in Australia and New Zealand. The last "KEY NOTE" we received was the November 2004 edition. As time slipped by, we became increasingly concerned that your postal recipients would wonder why they had not received their newsletter recently. It soon became obvious that assistance was needed and questions were asked as to who would temporarily fill in for George by writing a newsletter, getting it printed and posted, handling Subscriptions and new members etc.

Your QSL Manager, Chuck Spence, M0AVW contacted George and obtained a copy of his records which revealed the names and addresses of those members who receive Key Note by post and those receiving it by e-mail from Andy G0JLX, the FISTS Webmaster. As Chuck has no facilities for printing address labels and couldn't find anyone at short notice to write a newsletter, it was decided that FISTS "Down Under" should lend a hand, by issuing this Special Edition of Keynote – mainly to keep your postal members informed of the situation.

Ralph, ZL2AOH having label printing facilities offered to print the 726 U.K. and 96 Overseas members labels and have them couriered to Chuck in England, who will arrange the printing and posting of this Special Edition.

Whilst Geo is recuperating, Chuck will also handle all subscription renewals and new member applications. He has set up a separate account for this purpose and asks **any members renewing their subs to make cheques payable to him personally** i.e. Chuck Spence and NOT FISTS. Members are advised that Geo has agreed to grant a Three Month extension to renewals, for the inconvenience of lack of Keynotes. Any queries can be directed to Chuck as follows: **Chuck Spence, M0AVW, 32, Woodford Walk, Harwood Park, Thornaby - On – Tees TS17 0LT. Telephone: - 01642 – 869619 E-Mail: - m0avw1@ntlworld.com**

Remembering that Chuck is primarily the U.K. FISTS QSL Manager, if any members in the United Kingdom could assist Chuck, by filling any of the duties outlined above, it would be greatly appreciated.

For information on Subscriptions and other information refer to Key Note, November 2004. Chuck has application forms on hand, if you know of anyone wishing to join FISTS in your part of the world.

Finally, we all send Geo our best wishes for a speedy recovery and trust that he will rejoin the fold, taking over some of his duties in the near future, as and when he is able.

I apologise if this newsletter is not in the format you that are used to and the information contained may have been seen before. My intention is to make you all aware of forthcoming FISTS activities and renew your interest in the FISTS Awards programme.

Regards, Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX # 9040
Editor - FISTS Down Under Newsletter.

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, 20 Greenwood Boulevard, R D 1, Otaki 5560, New Zealand Newsletter
Distributor/QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, 3/153, Gisborne Street, Wellington, New South Wales 2820,
Australia. QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX. QSL to Editor / QSL Manager – Address above or via the FISTS
QSL Bureau. Address e-mails for above persons to: fistsdownunder@ihug.co.nz Visit our Web Site: - <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)
18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members:

VK3BBN – Joe Rotenburg # 9653 who joins us from Melbourne. We hope to publish biographical details of Joe in a forthcoming, FISTS Down Under.

ZL2AKV – Neville Copeland # 9654 from Upper Hutt, near Wellington. Neville is well known in the Wellington Area and within N.Z.A.R.T. having been its General Secretary for many years. In 1998, Neville was made an Honorary Life Member of N.Z.A.R.T. for services to the Society. He is now enjoying a well – earned retirement that we hope gives him plenty of on – air, time.

Neville writes about himself: "Thank you for the information pack, newsletters, certificate (9654) and invitation for a brief personal history in ham radio. Here is a potted history! Firstly, some background in Morse - I joined the NZPO as a message boy aged 15, where I was thrust into Morse classes on the old PO sounder. Then came 7 intense months of radio tuition at #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta - two of us old PO chaps relieved the instructors in Morse tuition. Next came six months of navigation course at #8 AGS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec still using the old "bathtub" bakelite key with Marconi T1154 and R1155 sets. A final spell at #10 Radio School, Carew Chariton, Wales before the atom bomb stopped all training.

Back to the old PO to re-sit the sounder tests and into the Wellington Telegraph rooms for some 30 years as Telegraphist and Senior Telegraphist. Ten years in the International Telegraph Office where high speed Morse using Creed autos and Wheatstone keyboards to the island stations, Chathams, Noumea, Scott Base etc was the mode. All this was taken on Imperial 66 typewriters in triplicate!

My ham saga commenced with the 1971 examination being issued with ZL2AKV. The winter of 1972-73 saw me at Scott Base with ZL5AL, operating three commercial CW schedules each day with attendant phone schedules via Makara & Himatangi - this was the last year of Morse at Scott Base. Back in NZ I was President of Branch 63 and Secretary for about three years. My greatest joy was National Field Day where we had an established spot in Trentham Memorial Park. The last time I did this was in 1999 with Bob ZL2MUI # 9090 - but we were sadly lacking in backup that year. My hearing has now deteriorated so my HF activity is limited. However, our club has some very up-to-date equipment and I may use the sets for future events."

FISTS DOWN UNDER AWARD

The FISTS Down Under Award has been issued to the following members - Congratulations: -

- (1) ZL2TX, (2) ZL2AOH, (3) ZL2BLQ (4) VK3DBD (5) VK4TJ (6) ZL1VS (7) VK2CTN (8) ZL2SWR
(9) 1st Overseas - AA7VW, (10) VK4JAZ.

The FISTS Down Under Award is earned by accumulating 50 points whilst working VK / ZL members. Start date 1 June 1988. Each FISTS Down Under member counts one point. Each Club Station (currently VK2FDU, VK4RC/ VK4IZ, ZL2SWR and ZL6FF) counts five points. The Award is available to FISTS Club members worldwide. A station can only be claimed once. Note, the one point is the same for all members, (i.e. there is no premium for working stations outside one's country.) Applications for this Award, which is free of charge although a small donation to cover postage is appreciated, should be made to: - Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c, Herbert Gardens, 186, The Terrace, WELLINGTON 6001, New Zealand. zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz

We know of several overseas stations working towards this Award. Who will be the Second Overseas station? John, VK4TJ reports that he has over 100 points for this award and is looking for an upgrade! (Something we will have to seriously consider, as we thought 50 points was hard enough! – Ed)

279VK The VK / Trans-Tasman Contests:

This exciting - 80 metres Contest will be staged over two nights: Phone: - Saturday, 21st MAY
CW: - Saturday, 4th JUNE (3500 to 3550kHz)

The 160 metres Contest follows in July, and is also staged over two nights: Phone: - Saturday, 9th JULY
CW: - Saturday, 23rd JULY (3500 to 3550kHz)

Each night runs for 6 hours (0800 U.T.C. to 1400 U.T.C.) in 1 hour stages - long enough to be interesting without being too arduous, and providing constant activity, with stations being reworked each hour. The main emphasis is on contacts between VK and ZL stations, with the scoring structured to give all stations an equal chance, regardless of their location or time - zone. Bonus points can be earned each hour, and are awarded to encourage trans-Tasman contacts and participation by VK Central and Western zones. As well as Phone and CW, there are QRP Categories, and one on 80M for Short Wave Listeners. An engraved trophy will be awarded to the outright winner on both bands, with certificates for winners and place getters in other Categories.

These Contests are not sprints or marathons. They will provide 6 hours of non-stop evening entertainment - that should not intrude too much on family life or sleep time.

So, make a note of the details, and give it a go! - Extend your dipoles and hook up your Tuners for the 160 Metres event.

The only thing we ask - is that you take the time to submit your log even if you don't think you will win. This is essential to make it all worthwhile, and to ensure the on-going success of the Contests. Rules may be published in the WIA and NZART magazines, and are available on the Contest website (with links to WIA, NZART, vkham.com, and vk4dx.net URL's). Queries and comment can be emailed to the Contest Manager on: - vktasman@hotmail.com

Sequential numbers commencing at 001 - shall be given and received for all contacts made during e Contest. (Use of RST numerals is NOT required).

For the full list of Contest Rules go to: - <http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/>

COMMONWEALTH CW CONTEST 2005

This year saw three ZL6 Club Prefixes active during the Commonwealth Contest for the first time. All three were operated - by FISTS - Down Under members and were in great demand by overseas stations, due to the fact each was a multiplier.

ZL6QH (Quartz Hill, Wellington A.R.C.) operated by Brian, ZL1AZE # 9078 reports that it was a struggle to work much on the higher bands and there were long idle periods during the Sunday daylight hours while the low bands were closed. Highlights of the contest were working ZS6ME, ZS75PTA and 7Q7BP on 15M towards the end of the contest. Top Signals from the U.K. were from G3BJ, G4BUO and G4PIQ/P. Summary Band Contacts: - 80M (43), 40M (150), 20M (195), 15M (90), 10M (16).

ZL6A (N.Z.A.R.T. HQ Station) operated by John, ZL1BHQ # 9625 saw for the first time a New Zealand Headquarters Station active, representing the National Society who authorised the use of their unique call sign. Summary Band Contacts: - 80M (20), 40M (99), 20M (139), 15M (59), 10M (10).

ZL6FF (FISTS CW CLUB National Station) operated by Jakey, ZL2JKY / G3JKY # 6462 reported that he was limited by the fact that he couldn't use the 10 Metre Band due to P.A. problems. Never the less a very respectable score was achieved with his FT101B barefoot and simple aerials. Summary Band Contacts: - 80M (18), 40M (65), 20M (50), 15M (18).

Our thanks to you all for livening up this get together, and of course to the many other members who turned up to hand out a few points. It will be interesting to see the final results. Could this have been the largest turnout of VK and ZL Stations?

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following Down Under Members on attaining their FISTS Awards: -

Century Award (CC): - VK2CTN, Chris # 9057, ZL2CB, Chas # 9645.

Silver Century Award: - ZL2SWR, Gold Century Award: - ZL2SWR, Platinum Award: - ZL2SWR.

ZL2SWR is the South Wairarapa Amateur Radio Club Station # 9618

(Trustee Stan, ZL2BLQ # 9068)

WORLD WIDE SOUTH AMERICAN REVIVAL

Alberto, LU1DZ from our sister club GACW in South America, has asked that we publish details of the South American Revival Contest which replaces the GACW DX Contest. Apparently the objective is for amateurs around the world to contact other Amateurs in as many CQ zones and countries as possible using CW Only. He says it is now a World Wide Contest – everybody works everybody. Dates 11/12 June 2005 1500UTC to 1500UTC. Further details from: - <http://gacw.no-ip.org>

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Several members arrange payment of their subscriptions directly into the club bank account. Unfortunately not all of these deposits are identified in our bank statement. The result is that we have sometimes unfortunately sent reminders for subscriptions that have already been paid. To avoid this, it would be helpful if you could inform us that payment has been made. An-email, phone call or a letter would be greatly appreciated.

JUNK SALE On Saturday 9 April 2005 we participated in the combined Wellington Clubs' Junk Sale and Expo, held at Naenae College, Lower Hutt. We shared a display table, courtesy of the Wellington Amateur Radio Club and the Quartz Hill Users Group. We had a large sign on display, as well as examples of our membership and FDU Award certificates. Copies of our promotional brochure and of the latest FISTS Down Under were available for interested parties. A good number stopped to chat, but we are not sure what impact we had. Through the display we have since gained one new member and hopefully others will follow suit.

Junk sales are a great opportunity for meeting old and new friends and of promoting our club. So if there is to be a gathering of hams in your locality, why not try to publicise the club? We will assist with promotional material and signs.

WANTED Items of news, Articles - especially on Amateur Radio and Morse. Photographs of members, their equipment, antennas and rare QSL cards are always of interest to others, so send them in to your Editor either by e-mail (Size about 80KB) or by mail. (Any photographs received by mail will be returned, once scanned, to their owner. If your article does not appear in the next issue, then I'm probably holding it over, for when times become lean – Ed)

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS NEWS

Many thanks for generous donations received from ZL1MAD - Dusty # 9051, VK2UK – Ted # 9620 and VK5BSC – Brian # 9601.

ZL3CED – Charlie # 9039. Finds that he is occupied with other things during his spare time and has requested someone else takes over as QSL Manager for the National Club Station ZL6FF. As from this issue, the new QSL Manager is Nigel, ZL2TX who is also our VK / ZL FISTS QSL Bureau Manager. Charlie lightening his load a little, remains as newsletter copier and dispatcher for ZL postal recipients. (Thanks Chas for all the work on those hundreds of QSL cards, much appreciated – Ed)

ZL2AOH – Ralph # 1073, (Membership Secretary) and ZL2TX – Nigel # 9040 (Editor) - both were very concerned last month when again, no U.K. Key Note was published. The reason is that George - G3ZQS # 0001 has been very unwell since around Christmas last, having been in and out of hospital for check ups and treatment. It was decided that "Down Under" should lend a hand to keep members in the U.K. informed until replacement volunteers could be found to take over George's duties until he is well again. Our main fear was that with no Key Note as communication to their many Postal recipients, a lot of members may well resign. To try and avoid this situation Nigel has written a Special Edition of U.K. Key Note on George's behalf and Ralph is organising the printing of 726 labels for U.K. Members and 96 Overseas Members. The Special newsletter will be printed and posted by Chuck, M0AVW in England.

V85GD – Greg # 9075: - Replies from Brunei: I've only recently printed off the March FISTS newsletter and read the article by John Kirk VK4TJ. I was surprised to read about the QNL, QNH, and QNZ abbreviations. I didn't know that there was another meaning for QNH. (Neither did I – Ed)

QNH is in everyday use in aviation and refers to the barometric pressure setting which when dialled into an altimeter sets the instrument so that it reads airport elevation (i.e. the instrument is set to Sea Level pressure). Flights below a certain altitude (used to be 11,000ft in NZ but now it's higher) use QNH for altitude indication. Used to be measured in millibars but now it's - hectopascals.

QNE is the standard barometric setting of 1013.2hPa or 29.92 inches, which is used once you climb above 13,000ft and then you are flying "Flight Levels" instead of altitude. This "Transition" airspace commences at different heights in different regions and in Australia it's 10,000ft, in the Middle East it's 13,000ft and in Europe it's quite low, about 6000ft. Don't ask why. QFE is also used (mostly in the UK and Russia) which means that the altimeter reads Zero when the aircraft is on the ground.

Aviation is a hotchpotch mix of feet (altitude & runway length), metres (runway length, altitude & visibility), knots (airspeed, wind speed & groundspeed) and nautical miles (distance), except the US, which uses miles or fractions thereof for visibility, and Fahrenheit for temp! Some US light aircraft still have airspeed indicators in mph.

China and Russia refer to altitudes in metres whereas most other countries use feet. Requires extra vigilance if your altitude selector is calibrated in feet. Confused? (Yeah, right!) Just looked at the photos of ZL2JJ station, what a beautiful set-up! Would love to work him on CW. (There's a challenge for you Peter!)

ZL2TX - Nigel # 9040, Reading that Stan, ZL2BLQ had achieved the first FISTS Worked All States Award from Down Under, I did a check of my own lists. Unlike Stan whose last State required was Rhode Island, I find I am in need of 5 States and would appreciate a contact. The Wanted FISTS States are LA (Louisiana), MT (Montana), SD (South Dakota), VT (Vermont) and WV (West Virginia). Members in those States can contact me, details in the header - otherwise I am often around 7.006 or 7.028Mhz CW when it is open Stateside.

VK4JAZ - Grant # 9635 - While on a short break recently, I stumbled across an interesting CW system that I wouldn't mind having in my shack. It made me think that there's nothing new under the sun. My wife and I paid a visit to the historic Trial Bay Gaol, at South West Rocks in New South Wales. As part of the visit, we spent time in their museum. Imagine my surprise when I saw this beautiful little CW rig! It was used in the 1870s and consisted of a receiver that had a single wheel clockwork inking register that marked, on moving paper, the code as it was received. This made it easier for the operator to decipher. Boy would I like something like that in my shack. Oh, the gaol dates back to 1886, so this little rig was state-of-the-art at the time!

ZL2AP - Joep # 9025 lives in Haumoana, a small east coast settlement adjacent to Hastings. Recently it was buffeted by an exceptionally high tide that coincided with a big swell, so some of the homes were damaged or affected. We asked Joep whether his QTH had been affected and he replied: The flooding was a minor affair, blown up by news media looking for some drama. The house that tipped over a bit was already abandoned, some time earlier, as the beach pebbles were right up against it for a long time. We are on a bit of higher ground, and never any problems, up until now. Of course all will change here in the future, but that may or may not be far away! My seaside location must help my signals, the antenna is a sort of G5RV, inverted, at 11m, it even worked the station in Chad some weeks ago; so I just keep it like it is - a beam may come later, you've got to have something to look forward to! Hardly any FISTS these days, there are not many on 40, where the only workable DX seems to be for us low power people!

CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$1.50. White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50 Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn. You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the comments box. Be sure your name & address are included. **ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL**

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver: I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and Join the Code Crusade <http://www.fists.org> The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back. The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL. All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Price are: **T-shirts = \$5.00 PLUS POSTAGE** **Sweats = \$10.00 PLUS POSTAGE** **Polos = \$14.00 PLUS POSTAGE** To figure postage for USA addresses: First (or only) T-shirt or polo shirt, add \$2.50 Additional T-shirts or polo shirts, add another \$1.00 each. First (or only) sweatshirt, add \$4.00 Additional sweatshirts, add another \$2.00 (TO A LIMIT OF \$7.70 if the order can fit in the USPS "all you can fit in" Priority mailing box for \$7.70.) NOTE: Contact Nancy WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA or bulk order postage. You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com. This is a limited time opportunity.

HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND? For a brochure, email Jim AA9LS at aa9ls@turbotoads.com with their name, call sign, and postal address. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 An application is available for downloading on our web page <http://www.fists.org>.

PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER? Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/ **APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448

WHAT IS KN0WCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW? KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?

W3GR, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email W3GR@arrl.net. We need ELMERS and Buddies, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

HOW DO I GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTO PAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself with your face about the size of a quarter to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE? The keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., CLinton Twp, MI 48038. Email: irenenken@cs.com

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION to give at my local club meeting?

It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at kk4kf@cox.net

HOW DO I ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? You may use the FISTS logos and get cards from any printer you wish. Cheapqsls.com has made a special FISTS card with special pricing for FISTS members. For ordering information and to see the cards visit <http://www.cheapqsls.com/fists.htm>

HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS? Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests and send it to Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI or nancy@tir.com Get published Be famous!

WHAT IS A CC NUMBER? CC stands for Century Certificate. It is the number on your Century Award Certificate. It is exchanged to earn different types of awards. There is NOT a separate "Century Club"

Coming Events:

Dayton Hamvention - May 20, 21, & 22

We need help with the booth. If you'd like to volunteer a couple hours to 'meet and greet' and talk-up FISTS and CW to the masses, drop Nancy WZBC a note. This is a fun opportunity, and it gives Nancy & Irene W0BE a chance to take a break and grab some lunch.

Field Day!!

What is your club doing for Field Day? Morse code contacts are worth more points - make sure everyone in your club knows that and has a CW tent - give newbies a chance to try out their fists.

Anyone in the MI, OH, IL, IN, ONT area interested in getting together for a FISTS Field Day?

FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

email: nancy@tir.com web page: <http://www.fists.org>

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